

The Stone Fort

By Elsie McKay



The Governor's Residence shown here, was the first building erected at the Stone Fort in 1831. Above is depicted the arrival of the last fur brigade from the north in 1904. Standing near the building are Mr. and Mrs. Stanger, and daughter Alice, now Mrs. N. Seguin, Winnipeg. In the foreground are Charles Sinclair, manager of the Hudson's Bay Post at Norway House, seated in the front carrieole after bringing in the last shipment of furs the Company shipped by dog-team. To his right, at the second dog-team, is Donald Flett in charge of the dog-trains.

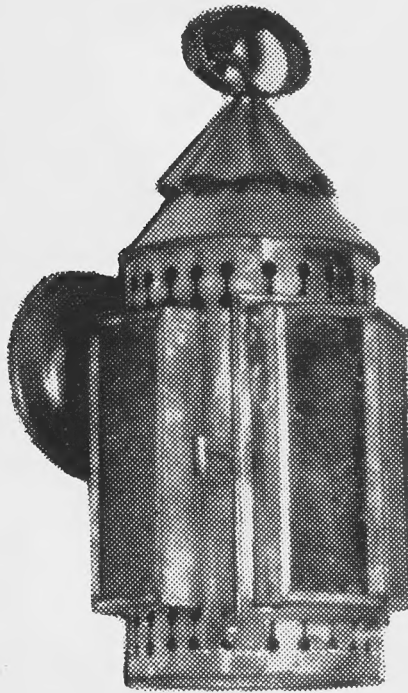
COVER PICTURE

A VISIT TO LOWER FORT GARRY — 1830's

The fort as it used to appear in bygone days, from the original sketch done by Chief Factor Alexander Christie, Governor of Assiniboia and Officer in charge of Red River District at the time of the building of the Fort. It is the only remaining complete example of the old stone forts, built by the Hudson's Bay Company, which were at one time numerous throughout the west.

Courtesy of the Public Archives

The Stone Fort



Lower Fort Garry

Elsie McKay.



SIR GEORGE SIMPSON
Governor of Rupert's Land

The Stone Fort

Lower Fort Garry, like Upper Fort Garry, was so named in tribute to Nicholas Garry, a Director of the Hudson's Bay Company who served on the Advisory Board at the time of the union of the Honorable Company and the North West Company in 1821.

Upper Fort Garry, now the city of Winnipeg, having been built on a flat, was subject to flooding, which caused material damage or dilapidation; and decked vessels then in use between Norway House and Red River found it difficult to ascend the Rapids with their freight.

After the flood of 1826 had caused severe damage to the Upper Fort, the main trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company in the West, Sir George Simpson considered it important that headquar-

ters be established elsewhere and he chose a site some twenty miles north on the Red River, owing to the fact that it was north of the Rapids and had a good harbor near the mouth of a large Creek.

At a Council meeting of the Hudson's Bay Company's Northern Department of Rupert's Land held at York Factory in 1830 it was decided that the new establishment be built. Sir George Simpson wrote to the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company, London, Eng., under date of July 18, 1831, but it was not until October of that year that the workmen commenced operations, by digging foundations, getting stones, and preparing timber.

Chief Factor Alexander Christie, twice Governor of Assiniboia, was the genius who planned Lower Fort Garry. So esteemed was he by his associates that he was accorded two years additional share in the profits as well as the seven years' retiring allowance usually awarded chief factors. Chief Factor Christie's son retired to live at Selkirk.

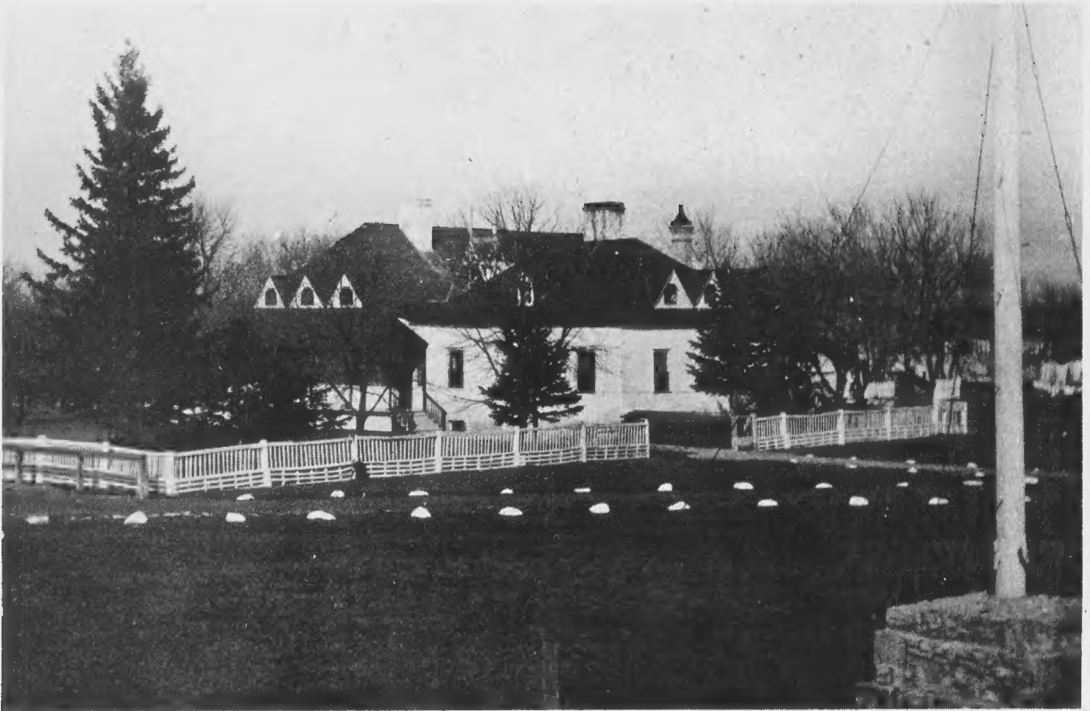
At this early date the Red River was virtually rip-rapped with limestone extending from north of the Lower Fort to a point south of St. Andrews Rapids, so it was planned to use these stones and lime.

In the 1880's the main industry along this section of the river was burning lime in kilns and hauling it up to Winnipeg. This city was growing into a metropolis.

Trees lined both banks of the Red north from the Rapids, except



Chief Factor
Alexander Christie
Twice Governor of
Assiniboia



An early photo of the Governor's Residence from the papers of the late John Stanger, manager at the Fort in 1911.

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. N. Seguin

for an occasional cart-trail or buffalo-path leading to the river.

When Bishop Anderson and his sister visited the stone Fort after the flood of 1852 they saw Indians catching as many as 300 fish by scooping at the mouth of the Creek. The types of fish in the river were pickerel, perch, gold-eye, pike, suckers and sunfish. In addition, a stout line would be run across the river attached at each side to a stake. From this, leaders would be run and hooks attached. The fish caught by this method were sturgeon and cat-fish. This was a further inducement, no doubt, in determining the site, for this small waterway assisted in providing nourishment in both summer and winter for the staff and the sleigh-dogs.

This residence where Governor Simpson planned to meet the Chief Factors of his Company was

more than headquarters for trade, however. Undoubtedly he intended this fine new home for his bride, eighteen-year-old Frances Simpson, daughter of the uncle in whose office he had begun his career.

Before leaving for England in 1829, Simpson brought the best builder at York Factory, Pierre Le Blanc, to the Upper Fort to restore a house for himself and his bride, with orders to start on the new fort later.

The marriage to Frances Simpson took place in London in March, 1830, and shortly afterwards Governor Simpson and his bride left England for Rupert's Land. From Montreal they travelled by canoe to Red River, then to the annual Council meeting at York Factory.

In 1832 the Simpsons moved to Lower Fort Garry where life was gay for a time with musical even-



Fur
Loft
showing
Construction

ings and dancing. In winter, a favourite sport was horse-racing on the frozen river. Their stay here was short, however, for the death of their first child, a son born at the Fort, brought depression and discontent, and they returned to London two years later.

During this time the Fort Store not only sold supplies and goods but it stored the furs of traders in the fur-loft on the second floor.

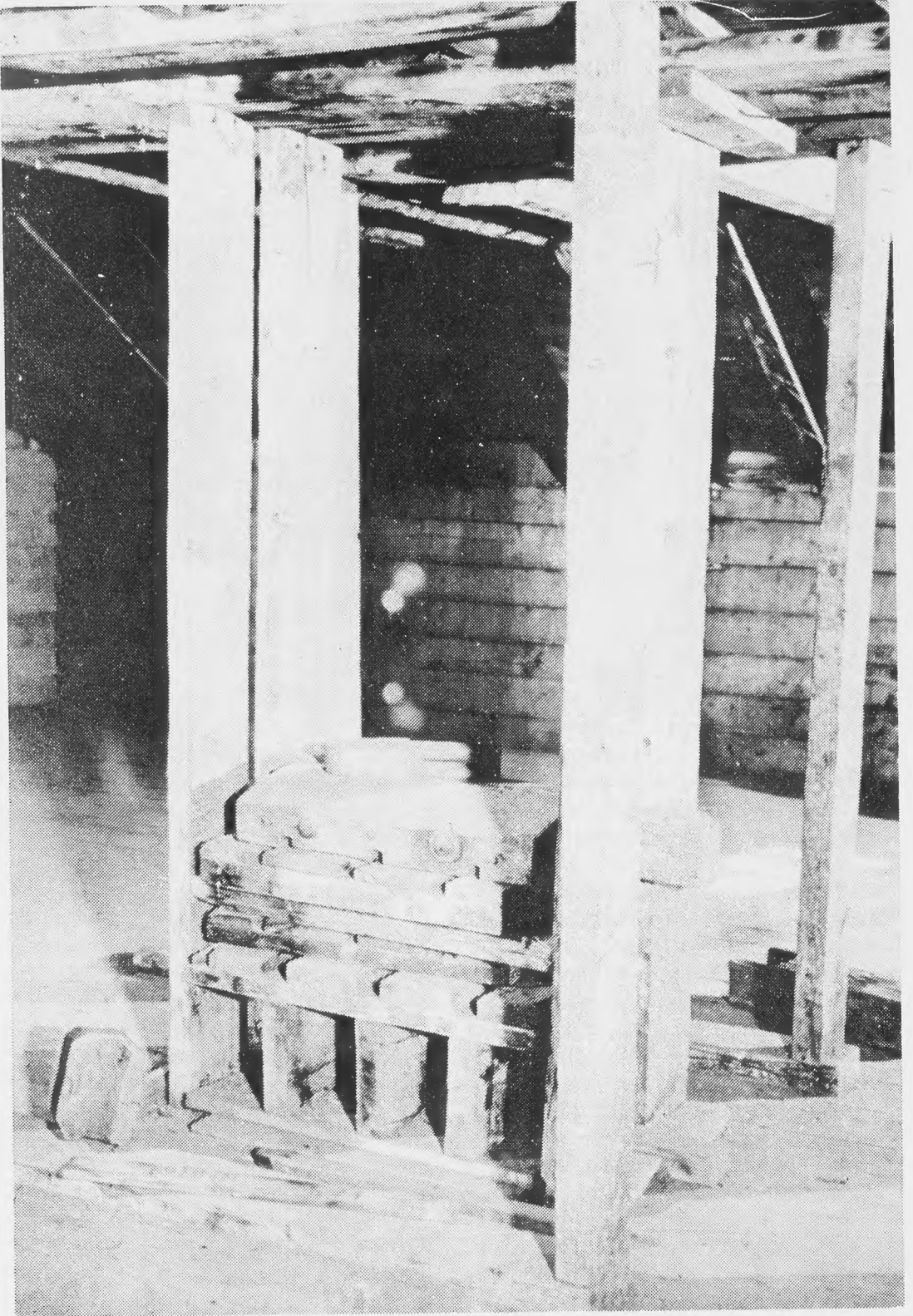
Only a large dwelling house and store had been finished up to 1835 and since the establishment was intended as a stronghold and safe retreat from any enemy, some thought was given to better outward protection.

Although Company officials in London had given orders to stop construction when they found

Lower Fort Garry unsuitable for trade headquarters, and building expenses too costly in 1834, it was later decided to strengthen the place by erecting a wall and bastions around these buildings.

Perhaps this was planned because there was unrest in the settlement or it may have been to serve as a warning to any or all who might have ideas about extending the border northward as the boundary line settlement had not yet been completed.

Soon after Sir George Simpson's return to London, he persuaded his cousin, Thomas Simpson, the son of his benefactress, to enter the Company's service. No doubt in appreciation for the kindness shown him by the aunt to whom he owed so much, as well as in tribute to the young man's ab-



Fur press used for pressing the pelts to bale for shipment
By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

ility, for he had made a brilliant showing in mathematical science at King's College, Aberdeen, Simpson set him up as a clerk with fourth year rating in apprenticeship.

From this fact, Thomas assumed he would be first in command in any undertaking proposed, even though in this instance it happened to be an exploration trip to the Arctic, for which he had had no preparation whatsoever.

Not long after Thomas' arrival he antagonised the Indians and half-breeds at Fort Garry by striking a Metis who asked for an advance on salary and only the intervention of Governor Christie and Sheriff Ross, plus gifts of money, rum and tobacco, stopped the war-dance his action aroused.

In second place to Dease on the journey north, he excelled as a traveller by his speed and endurance, covering the distance of 1,377 miles by dog-team in sixty-two days in the dead of winter. This feat in a strange and forbidding land, coupled with his scientific knowledge was only offset by the flawless English of his reports.

To show the appreciation he attained, he was honored by the Royal Geographical Society of London by having a portrait painted in oils, framed in gold, with sextant and compass design, and space left for a record of his services.

He met an untimely death under mysterious circumstances when he set out from the Stone Fort with an escort of mixed blood on a journey to England several years later.

Duncan McRae, a stone-mason from Stornoway, in the Scottish Hebrides, was brought out in 1837 with a commission from the Company to construct the walls and bastions. John Clouston, also from



Duncan McRae
Stone-Mason of the
Red River

Courtesy of Selkirk Enterprise

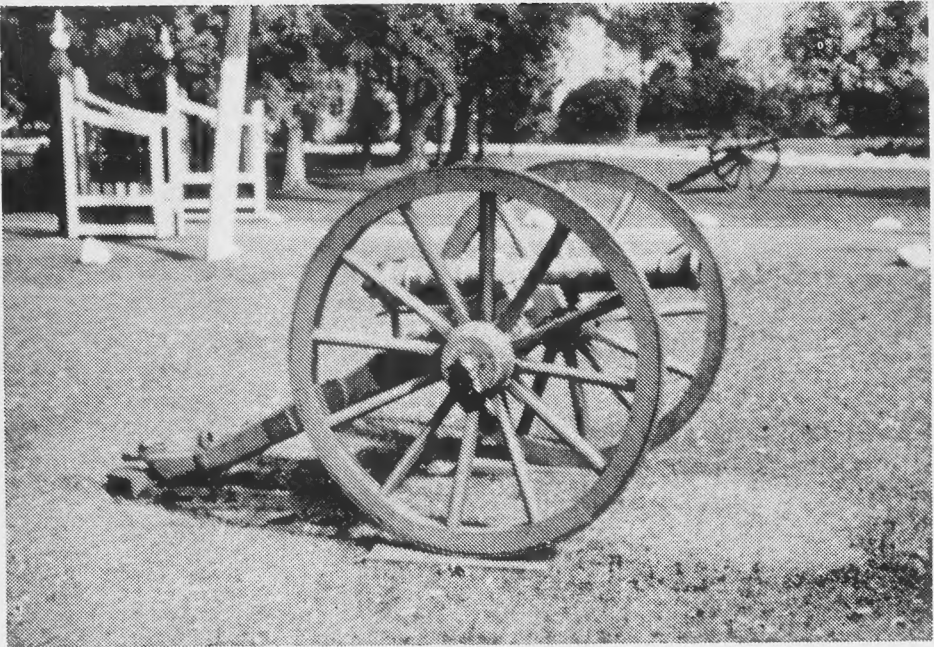
the Hebrides, worked with him on this stone-work.

They obtained the limestone from the nearby river-bank by the use of windlasses lifting the stone on Red River carts; this, in turn, was hauled to the top of the bank by oxen and shagganappies (Indian ponies). The stone was raised into place by means of a box of rough stout boards lifted with windlass.

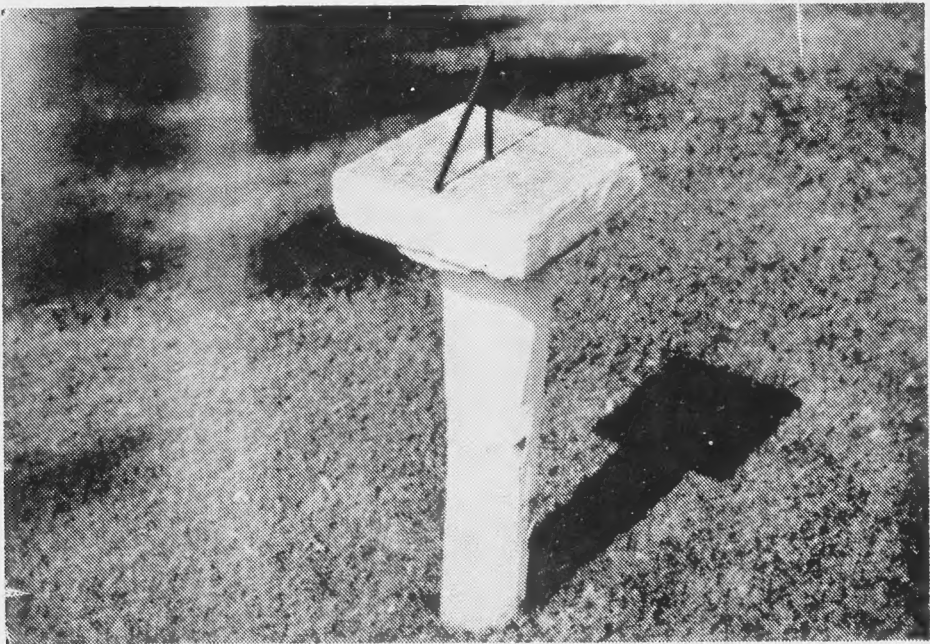
The stone-work at Lower Fort Garry and at Upper Fort Garry, rebuilt as headquarters a few years later, required ten years labor.

Walls three feet thick, seven and one-half feet high, extend well over two thousand feet; the distance between the walls of the quadrangle is about four hundred and fifty feet. Loop-holes in the walls were, for the purpose of rifle-fire, fifteen and a half feet apart.

Bastions at the four corners were for ammunition, etc.



Three-Inch Cannon
Courtesy Manitoba Historical Society — G. F. Morrison



Sun Dial
Courtesy Manitoba Historical Society — G. F. Morrison

Three mounted cannons faced the river, with dates 1807 to 1810. These were used to fire a salute, a blank charge, at the arrival or departure of any special guests, and always at the arrival or departure of the Governor.

In front of the residence was a sun-dial which still remains, though in another position, said to have been made by the late E. R. Abell, employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, engineer of the S.S. International that plied from the Upper Fort to Georgetown, U.S.A. The small stone cottage still standing outside the south wall on a bank of the Red was occupied by E. R. Abell and is yet known as the Abell house.

One of the reasons for completing this house was that Colonel Crofton, Commanding Officer of a wing of the 6th Foot, was billeted there in 1846.

From the time the Company headquarters were changed to Up-

per Fort Garry (rebuilt) in 1835 until 1846 the Stone Fort remained the Governor's residence when he visited it each year, the seat of government, and an outfitting post for northbound travellers, in particular.

When the Oregon boundary became a disturbing issue, the walls and bastions were hastily completed, the last stones laid in a rush as the military personnel arrived from England. At last, it seemed, Governor Simpson's comfortable establishment was to merit the tremendous outlay that had brought it into existence.

The Sixth Foot, Artillery and Engineers, under Colonel John Crofton, with a complement of 307 soldiers, 18 officers, with one nine-pounder, and three six-pounder cannons, 17 women and 19 children, were quartered at Upper and Lower Fort Garry for two years.

The Redcoats in their scarlet tunics, white drill trousers and blue coats topped by black stove-



Red River Cart
Manitoba Department of Travel and Publicity



The last dog train leaving Lower Fort Garry, enroute for Norway House, in 1909. In those days, dog drivers vied with one another in the smart appearance, speed, and stamina of their dogs. A trained team, over hard, open country, could make forty miles a day, each hauling a load of approximately one hundred pounds and more.

From a painting by Charles F. Comfort for the Hudson Bay Company
By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

pipe hats added a colorful note to the Red River colony.

It was this dress which was respected so much by the Indians and for this reason the scarlet tunic was adopted by the North West Mounted Police when it was formed.

The soldiers enlivened the place socially in summer with cricket, horse shoe games, and sporting stunts, and in winter with sliding, skating, and races on the river. Materially, they brought amazing prosperity to the settlement, so lavish were they in their purchases of beer (made at the Fort brewery) and produce from the settlers.

The military side of their stay was rigid, too, for sentry duty meant steady patrol, with severe punishment for anyone caught standing still at his post or failing to call out "All's Well" every quarter hour, the idea being to keep them from freezing, not sleeping. Only two tried to desert and were brought back and flogged.

"The Lower Fort Garry is in process of being enclosed by loop-holed walls and bastions," Sir George Simpson wrote in 1841. "This is my own headquarters when I visit the settlement; and here also resides Mr. Thom, the recorder of Rupert's Land."

In the earliest years of existence, the Stone Fort was noted as the starting point for most, if not all, of the exploration and scientific expeditions to the North. Here the men came to be outfitted for Arctic travel.

As well as scientific observations, there were astronomical, meteorological and agricultural tests of all kinds.

In addition to explorers, Sir John Franklin, Sir George Back, Dease and Simpson, there were

Sir John Richardson and one of the best known of all, Dr. John Rae.

Scientists included Robert Kennicott, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. and Lieut. J. H. Lefroy (later Sir Henry) who were briefed on the hazards of northern travel before leaving Red River.

There were many, too, in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company who were conspicuous for their explorations.

In the early spring each year, voyagers and traders converged on the Fort from northern areas with their winter's catch of furs, stopping two or three miles before arriving at the post to put silk and bead-worked saddle-cloths and pom-poms with gaily colored ribbon streamers on their dogs and deck themselves out in their best moccasins and leggings, made by their wives and sweethearts. The drivers gave a crack of a six-foot deerskin whip and a command "Marche!" The dogs bounded into their collars ready for the race to their destination.

The drivers in their best regalia were now ready to meet their friends. In the evenings there was always dancing, the Red River jigs and eight-hand reels - cutting each other out was great sport, and the dance was a test of endurance. There was always a fiddler to produce the music.

In summer the last lap of their journey ended in a boat race.

The procedure was timed to impress onlookers. Nearing their objective they waited for the noon bell, then raced to the Fort to enjoy a short period of gaiety.

Another builder came to Lower Fort Garry in October, 1849, in the person of Samuel Taylor, a native of the Orkney Islands, who had spent thirteen years at Moose

Factory and other northern posts. With McRae and Clouston, he worked on stone-construction at the Stone Fort as well as St. Clement's Church, Mapleton, Miss Davis School and other landmarks.

From the day he left Scotland in 1836 until 1883 Taylor kept a diary of events. Though part of this record is lost, we glean some ideas of life at the Fort at this period.

"November, 1850 — And we all took breakfast before going to work upon Monday, 25th. The Officers' house finished inside Tuesday and a grand dance given to all hands Wednesday.

"October, 1851 — The Fort fireplace finished upon the 7th. The new foundation was put under the Front Store at the above time after shiptime finished. May 29 — Sir George Simpson came Thursday about half-past twelve in the day.

"November, 1853 — The new bell, Casted by C & C Mears, London, in 1850, was put up on the 12th.

November, 1856 — Samuel Taylor and Murdoch Smith began to plaster the new bake-house.

"December, 1856 — James Morrison and S. Taylor, helping John Richards to bend a big flat sledge for Christmas amusement, etc.

Brief notes for 1857 and 1858.

"March, 1859 — The Indians left for Abbitibie with the packet. 42 below zero.

"June 1. 1859 — Sir George Simpson arrived at Upper Fort Garry and went out to Norway House the 6th.

"The Bishop left on June 9th — a great feast at the Grand Rapids and Rev. Mr. Kirby left for the MacKenzie River June 10th; the first steamer that ever come in to Red River came down the river about the middle of the day on Monday, 13th June. A pretty day and plenty of people on board. She came up again that same afternoon again.

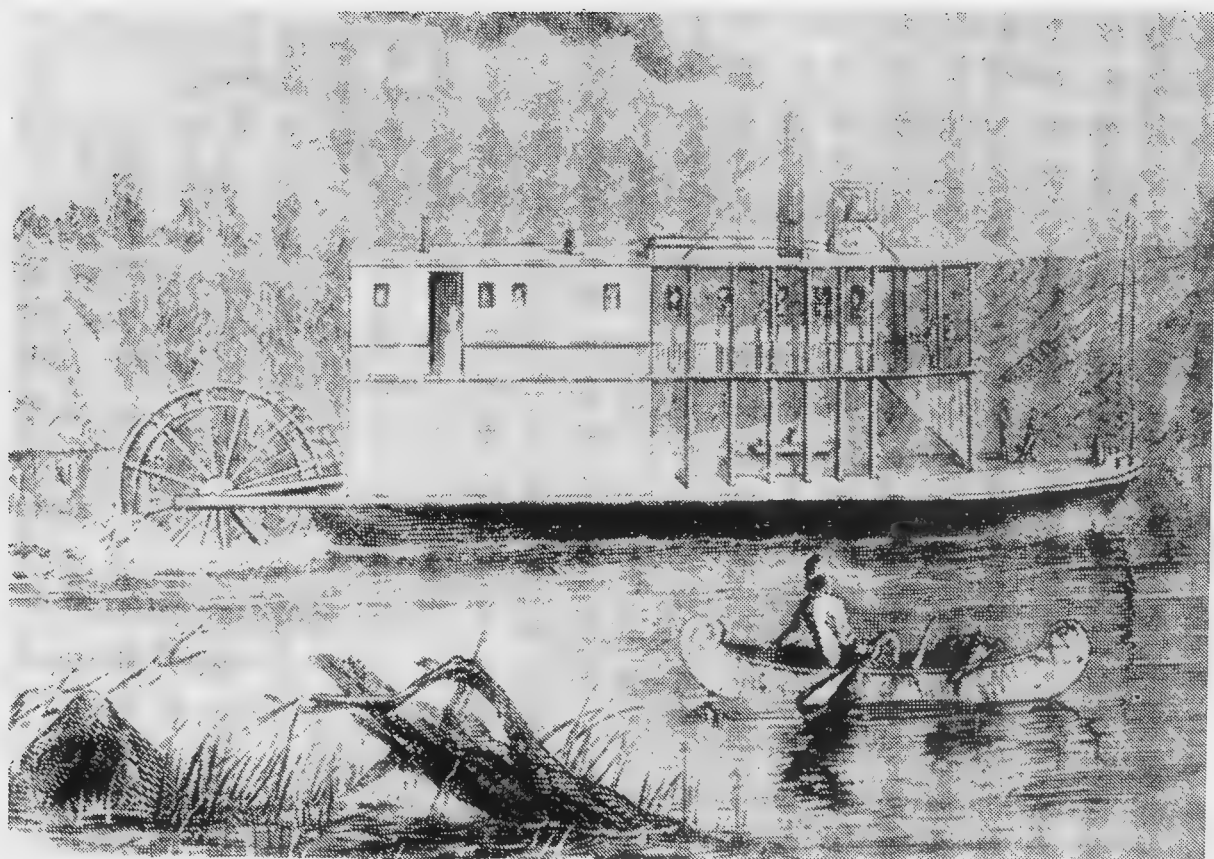
"I had the satisfaction to see Dr. Rae 16th June.

October, 1860 —

"I got the loan of 10 bushels of wheat from Mr. Harriott. I went up to John Tait's water mill with it that same day and it was ground that night. I came home nearly daylight Saturday a.m. Mr. Harriott told me on the 28th day that



Hawthorne Lodge, built by Chief Factor J. E. Harriot in 1858, was one of the many beautiful homes along the Red River in the early days. Construction was of limestone cut from native stone.



The Anson Northup, first steamboat on the Red River, June 10, 1859
 Courtesy of Manitoba Historical Society

Sir George Simpson died upon the 7th of this month."

(This Mr. Harriott was a Chief Factor living approximately one mile south of the Stone Fort. He built and lived at a residence known as Hawthorne Lodge, replaced by another residence in 1912. The description in the Land Titles Office of the property is Hawthorne Lodge. All other properties are described as numbers.)

An early writer, J. J. Hargrave, quotes the following, with reference to Hawthorne Lodge:

"The house, which is a type of the better class of dwellings in the Selkirk settlement, is built of limestone quarried from the native rock. One fact reveals something of the causes of the stagnation of things at Red River. Mr. Harriott,

when building his house, left in the spacious dining-room an arching alcove for a sideboard at the same time giving a cabinet-maker in the settlement an order to fill it. Several years have elapsed, but what with the cabinet-maker hunting, and farming, and doing nothing, Mr. Harriott has not yet seen even the wood of which his sideboard is to be made....

"A few well-selected books, house-plants in the windows, choice engravings on the walls, riding whips and guns in the hall, tobacco jars and pipes on the side-table, a melodeon and accordion and music-box in the room which the New Englanders call the parlor, tell the story of how the pleasant summer days and long nights are whiled away, and how a life

of exposure and adventure and toil is rounded out with rest and calm and domestic peace....

"One pleasant afternoon, our host ordered his carriage to the door, and drove us to the "Stone Fort." The horses were a gay pair, and whirled their load down the gravelled walk and over the bridge and along the road at a pace that needed a strong hand on the reins. The carry-all was of a soberer sort, imported from England by way of Hudson's Bay and York Factory, and of a pattern not now in fashion here or there — low, heavy wheels, thick, substantial whiffle-trees, high dash-board, and a body like that of the carriages of well-to-do English squires half a century ago. We were soon at the Fort....A distillery near by, where the Company once undertook to manufacture their own liquor, is no longer used for that purpose...When Assiniboa is made a colony, the Fort may be bought for Government purposes." (End of quote.)

Samuel Taylor's diary continued:

December, 1860 —

On Monday the 17th we slept our first night at Poplar Point. The Rev. Mr. Cowley came past us just after we got there, he was going to Fort Alexander. Joseph Monkman was with him (guide).

August, 1861 —

Mr. Lillie went past us on the morning of the 7th (at Netley Creek, making hay) and soon after all the York boats and all the Royal Canadian Rifles who had been at the Upper Fort nearly four years.

June, 1862 —

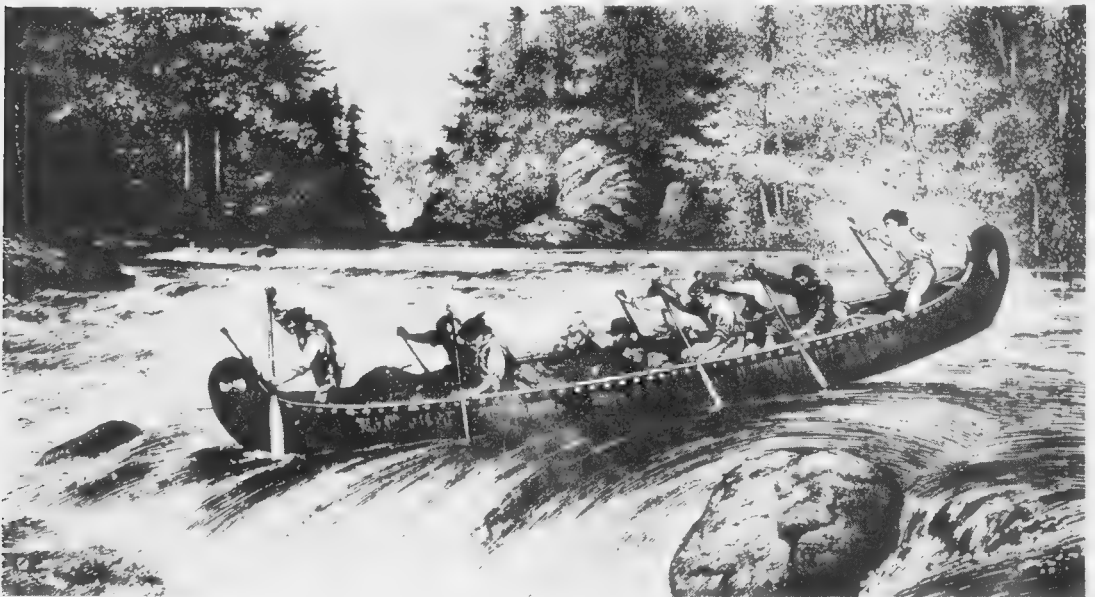
All or most of the clergymen met at the Cathedral on the 4th as the Hudson's Bay Company's Governor A. G. Dallas was to lay the cornerstone of the tower at 11 o'clock that day.

November, 1862 —

There was a fine bell put up at St. Clement's Church on Saturday 15th after dark at night with fires and lantern light.

27th — A great many meetings and words now about sending home for troops from England.

December — About 30 Sioux Indians at the Upper Fort.



Journeying in Western Canada, 1872

Courtesy of the Public Archives of Manitoba



The York Boat, under its square sail, giving the oarsmen a rest while the wind was favorable. The York Boat was manned by eight oarsmen, a man with a sweep to steer it in rivers, or a rudder for the lake. When winds were favorable, a square sail was used.

The oarsmen in action stood up to their oars and inclined back to the seats. This was all done in rhythm. The oarsmen, in addition to their duties, acted as trackers in tracking the boat up the swift waters, using a tump-strap on their forehead. This was attached to the boat by a long line. Then the sweep man had an extra chore in lifting the pieces of freight to the backs of the packers for portaging. These pieces weighed approximately 90 pounds.

By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

February, 1863 - 22nd — Great fear of the Sioux coming into the settlement.

March, 1863 — Mrs. Bird's great ball was on the 12th.

May, 1864 — I ought perhaps to have mentioned more than two years ago, for to let people know if the world stands anything, that the greater number of women wearing hoops insides of their dresses more than two years ago,

and are still doing so, poor servant girls when cooking have the everlasting hoops on. This is poor times for flour with many in the settlement; it is now four pounds for one shilling and hard to be got, and now this spring the watermills cannot grind for want of water.

July, 1864 — John Clouston is building a fine watermill, a little below the Stone Fort this summer." (End of quote).

In 1848 a body of British Army pensioners were quartered at Lower Fort Garry; and these were succeeded by another military force, the Royal Canadian Rifles in 1857, 120 strong, the latter remaining until 1861.

Isaac Cowie writes inimitably of a trip to the Lower Fort in 1867, as follows:

"After York Factory had ceased to be the regular meeting place, the Council came to be held usually at this place (Norway House) and only occasionally in Red River Settlement at Lower Fort Garry."

"We landed in the marsh at the mouth of the Red River on the 1st of October (1867). It was a glorious morning. Ducks were flying about, and the pot hunters were busy at their harvest but we had no time for sport, everyone being eager to reach the end of the journey at Lower Fort Garry.

"We started under oars, boat racing against boat. When we got out of the marshland, and reached the dry banks of the river, the men strung out on the line ahead, and went lightly as if the St. Peter's girls had got hold of the towline, too. Joyful cries of greeting were exchanged as we sighted and passed the comfortable cabins of the Indian settlers along the river, and we could see that a procession was following us to the fort by the road further back.

"The men were not long unloading the boats and carrying the cargo uphill to the warehouse in the fort. And then, being now united with their families and friends, they eagerly entered the shop to be paid off." (End of quote.)

An unusual happening took place July 3, 1868, when a hurricane struck Red River. A barn being rebuilt west of the Abell Cot-

tage was blown down, killing George Stephens, of St. Peter's; a York boat at the boat-building house south of the Fort was blown over the Stone Fort beyond the west wall and came to rest on the barns north of the enclosure, more than 500 feet distant.

The Riel Rebellion of 1869 only grazed the Stone Fort with its rumors and threats of strife and imprisonment.

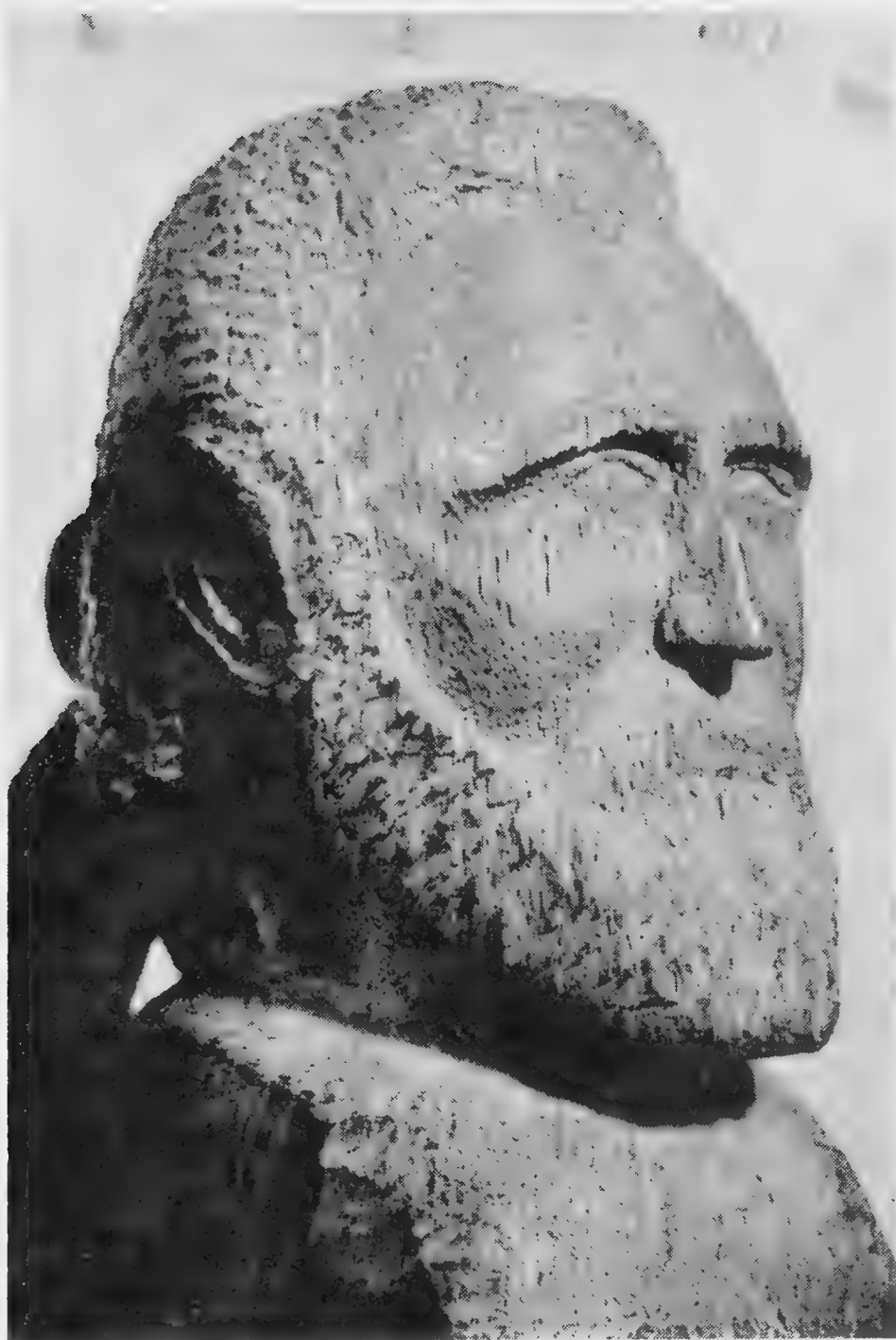
When William McDougall, (appointed, but without the official proclamation necessary to set him up as Governor of Rupertsland) was attempting to usurp Riel's power in the Red River settlement by proclaiming himself Governor, he sent Col. S. Dennis, an early surveyor, as his lieutenant to raise the necessary forces to put a stop to the insubordination of the Metis party.

William Flett, officer in charge of Lower Fort Garry, allowed Dennis to take possession when he arrived at the post December 1st. Seventy men assembled for army drill that evening and the following day the Indian Chief Prince, "with a band of some 70 to 100 men" came in to the Stone Fort. Dennis retained fifty of the latter group as guards at the Fort.

Some excitement was caused by Louis Riel's visit to the quarters of Archdeacon McLean in the residence at the Stone Fort in his search for Dr. John Schultz, who had escaped custody at the Upper Fort January 23rd.

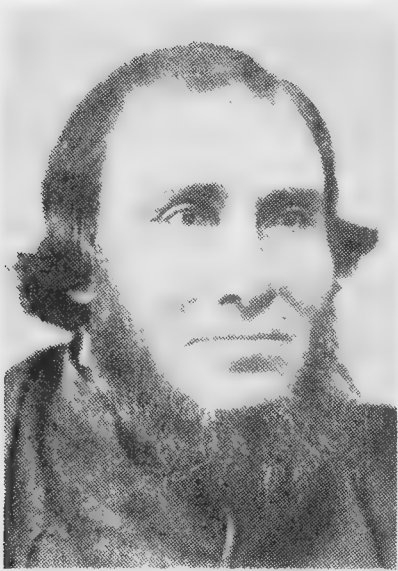
It is said that the rebels clambered over the south wall, between the southeast bastion and the store, so desperate were they to recapture Schultz whom Riel had sworn to shoot on sight. The Metis guarding the Fort fled.

While Riel was at the Stone Fort, Dr. Schultz was in hiding at



Bust of Louis David Riel by William Henry Jackson, who acted as Riel's secretary during the Rebellion of 1885 and, captured with him, on examination he was found insane and sent to a mental asylum at Lower Fort Garry, where he carved the image of his leader.

Courtesy of Lt.-Col. R. Hunter Young



Joseph Monkman

the home of Rev. John McNabb, three quarters of a mile south at Little Britain.

Sheriff Inkster's account of the nocturnal interview is as follows:

"Riel, Lepine and O'Donoghue, went overnight on horse back to the Lower Fort in search of Dr. Schultz. Arriving at the Fort, Riel forced his way into the residence, where Archdeacon McLean, I think it was, was staying overnight. As far as I am aware, Donald A. Smith never spent a night at this time away from the Upper Fort.

"Riel pushed into the Archdeacon's bedroom, thinking Schultz might be the occupant, pulled the bedclothes roughly from the bed and frightened the Archdeacon nearly out of his wits.

"Meanwhile, Schultz with Joseph Monkman (then over 70 years of age) as guide, made his escape going by dog-team across country to Duluth. (End of quote). Monkman later stated:

"On receiving Dr. Schultz's note I went to Mr. McBeth's house in St. Paul with a fast pony hitched to a jumper. I put in a good supply of

hay and a buffalo robe and before leaving Mr. McBeth's house, I had Dr. Schultz lie down in the jumper and covered him over with hay and loosely threw the buffalo robe over him."

He had only gone a short way from the house when two of Riel's scouts stopped him and wanted to know if he'd seen Dr. Schultz. His answer was: "Boy, I'm in a hurry. I've got to get home," and slashed his pony. He further stated: "I didn't care anyway. My pony could beat theirs and I could lick the two of those fellows." (He likely could, he was a man over six foot and one of the strongest men in the country.)

Colonel Garnet Wolsley's troops arrived at the Stone Fort on the morning of August 23, the 60th Rifles and other detachments of regulars, including the Abyssinian Battery of the Royal Field Artillery, forming two companies commonly known as the Ontario and Quebec; the former billeted in Winnipeg, the second, the Quebec, were stationed at Lower Fort Garry.

Taking every precaution for secrecy, they were a complete surprise to Riel at the Upper Fort. Although north of the Stone Fort people greeted them with discharges of musketry as they passed by, there was absolute silence at the Upper Fort as they approached. Its occupants scattered and without a shot being fired, the Union Jack was once again raised over the Upper Fort.

In the fall of 1870 the penitentiary was established in a large stone building in the northeast corner, previously used as a storehouse. Col. S. L. Bedson was appointed warden of the government



Lt.-Col. S. L. Bedson
Courtesy of the Public Archives
of Manitoba

jail for Rupertsland, as it was then called.

A stockade fence was erected running from the west side of the north gate to a point south, in line with the stone building, thence east to this building. It was projected north from the north gate for approximately 100 yards and then carried east to the river. This enclosed the stables and garden.

Bars are still on the windows as well as the old spyhole door.

At this time the Masonic Lodge, Lisgar No. 2, was formed by members of the 2nd Quebec Battalion and resident mason near the fort on February 20, 1871, and the first Lodge picnic held there on the 24th of June.

On August 23, 1871, the first Indian Treaty in the west was concluded at Lower Fort Garry, between the Canadian Government

and two tribes, the Chippewans and the Swampy Crees. Wemyss M. Simpson, Dominion government Commissioner, negotiated with the Indian Chiefs near the north-west bastion, while the Indians camped north of the Fort.

At this treaty there were 1,000 Indians present, represented by eleven chiefs, acting for 14,000 Indians in the lands to be ceded, the whole of the territory embracing 55,000 miles.

Lieutenant-Governor Archibald opened proceedings on this occasion, part of which is as follows:

"Your Great Mother, the Queen, wishes to do justice to all her children alike . . . But the Queen, though she may think it good for you to adopt civilized habits, has no idea of compelling you to do so.



Chief Peguis
From the wood-carving by Alexander
Logan, of Winnipeg
Courtesy of Lt.-Col. Hunter Young

This she leaves to your choice . . ."

Principal features of the Treaty were the relinquishment to Her Majesty of the Indian title; the reserving of tracts of land for the Indians, sufficient to furnish 160 acres of land to each family of five; providing for the maintenance of schools, and prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors on the reserves; and a present of three dollars per head to the Indians and the payment to them of an annuity of three dollars per head.

There is no doubt that at this famous meet special tribute was paid to one of the greatest Chiefs who ever lived in the West, Chief Peguis, who had lived along the Red River for many years and greatly endeared himself to the people in the Settlement by his kindness to them in their difficult times.

The Stone Fort billeting various military units and having adjacent

a strong tribe of Indians whose Chief was known to be a brave, friendly and peace-loving man, were factors in preventing more bloodshed and chaos in periods of the early settlement of Rupert's Land.

Henry Prince was the Chief who stated that his Grandfather whose name, Pegowis or Peguis, signifies Destroyer, arrived at the Red River a stranger, with a very small following from Red Lake but he had great character and became the recognized Chief of the Saulteaux and also was acknowledged by the Swampy Crees who came to the Red River from Norway House and district.

Peguis signed the treaty made between Lord Selkirk with the four chiefs in 1817. It was he who was mainly responsible for the fact that there was not greater bloodshed at the battle of Seven Oaks.

Peguis received from George



The wall facing the river showing the cannon in place for a salute. And the Indian wigwam, which was a common sight in the earliest days.

Courtesy of The Winnipeg Tribune



The Stone Fort, as it was commonly called in the early days, and now known as Lower Fort Garry, showing the stockade and stables. Names of some of the soldiers in the Wolseley Expedition may be found carved on the east wall.

Simpson, Governor of Rupertsland, the following:

"These are to certify that Peguis, the Saulteaux Indian Chief, has uniformly been friendly to the whites, well-disposed toward the Settlement of Red River and altogether a steady, intelligent, well-conducted Indian. In consideration of these facts and being now in the decline of life, unable to maintain himself and family by the produce of the chase alone, it is hereby certified that I have assured him of an annuity for life from the Honorable, the Hudson's Bay Company of £5 sterling, commencing with a payment of that amount this day. Fort Garry,
The 1st of January, 1835.

(Signed) *George Simpson*
Governor of Rupertsland

And a tribute from Lord Selkirk as follows:

The bearer, Peguis, one of the principal chiefs of the Chippeways or Saulteaux, has been a steady friend of the settlement ever since its first establishment and has never deserted its —cause in its greatest reserves. He has often

exerted his influence to restore peace and having rendered most essential services to the settlers in their distress, deserves to be treated with favor and distinction by officers of the Hudson's Bay Company and all the friends of peace and good order.

(Signed) Selkirk,
Fort Douglas,
July 17, 1820.

By contrast to the esteem in which Peguis was held was the disturbing situation created by an Indian named Longbones, who had scalped his wife and been imprisoned in the Fort penitentiary. When it was whispered that he was among the crowd, M. Simpson, the Commissioner, demanded that he surrender. A long palaver took place, to no avail. Finally, the Hon. James McKay, a good linguist was brought from Silver Heights, to harangue the Indians, with such good results that Longbones was surrendered and the Treaty concluded.

The next event of note was the formation of the North West Mounted Police at the Stone Fort,



North Wall and Guard House (Penitentiary or Mounted Police Barracks)
 Courtesy of Manitoba Historical Society — G. F. Morrison



The Powder Magazine
 By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

on lease from the Hudson's Bay Company in 1873, quarters having been made ready for the force by the Department of Public Works.

The nucleus of the North West Mounted Police was organized from the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Wolseley expedition. To obtain further personnel recruiting was carried out in the east.

On November 1, 1873, an Act came into force, by which the Mounted Police force came into being, the same Act authorized the appointment of stipendiary magistrates within the Territories, the same to hear and judge on criminal charges. Convicted persons were to be lodged at the penitentiary at the Stone Fort.

On November 3, 1873, the Northwest Mounted Police began when the enlistment oath was administered by temporary commissioner, Lieut.-Col. W. Osborne Smith, with

each man receiving a warrant bearing his name and rank.

First three to sign the roll were: Arthur H. Griesbach, Percy R. Neale, and Samuel Benfield Steele (later Major-Gen. Sir Sam. Steele). In command was Supt. W. D. Jarvis of "A" Troop, senior superintendent.

Quarters at the Stone Fort were comfortable and two large stables were being erected, although uniforms and supplies did not reach the Fort until some time later. Meantime, Lt.-Col. Smith supplied fatigue uniforms, warm clothing and arms from the militia stores at Upper Fort Garry.

Superintendent-and-Sub-Inspector Walsh was given the duties of acting adjutant, riding-master and acting veterinary surgeon; Sergeant-Major Griesbach, assisted by Sgt. J. H. McIlree, was in charge of discipline and foot-drill; while S/Sgt. S. B. Steele took equitation



Red River Cart Train

By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company



South-West Bastion Cook-house. Note stone wall reduced in height
By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

classes with Sgt. Robert Belcher and Sub-Cst. James T. Fullerton assisting.

S/Sgt. Steele was well-known hereabouts for his ability in breaking bronchos for the Force.

Later in life as Col. S. B. Steele, C.B., M.V.O., he had a distinguished military career as commander of the contingent of the North West Mounted Police in the Yukon in command of the Yukon company for the South African War and in command of the South African constabulary. During the First World War he was in command of Strathcona Horse, later D.O.C. of District Numer 13 at Calgary.

The advance party comprising two contingents arrived at Lower Fort Garry October 21, 1873, from the east having made the 545-mile-trip from Port Arthur over the

Dawson Trail, by wagon, small tug, scows, open boats and several carts and at the last crossing the Red River by means of a scow ferry, then on bob-sleigh.

Here, during the winter of 1873-74, military routine was first observed, as issued by General Orders, January 5, (1874) from Reveille at 6.30 a.m. to Lights Out at 10.15 p.m.

One of their first duties, early in December was to investigate a report which came in from the west shore of Lake Winipeg that whiskey traders were operating in that district. A sergeant and three constables were dispatched after being given snow-shoeing instruction and practice by Superintendent MacLeod.

Six men were taken into custody at the small log shack that

served as the trader's headquarters and ten gallons of liquor were spilled. The first patrol by the North West Mounted Police returned to the Stone Fort the day before Christmas after successfully fulfilling their assignment.

Almost immediately Commissioner French realized that the lack of ready communication between the Stone Fort, the first headquarters establishment, and departmental offices in Ottawa, 1,300 miles away, made it advisable to change the entire arrangement.

His letter written in December to Colonel Hewitt Bernard, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of Justice, stated:

"The Governor has reliable information that there are five forts betwin the Milk River and Edmonton, one of them containing 100 outlaws and desperadoes, and mounting several guns . . ."

On May 25, 1875, the Minister of Justice recommended that Fort Ellice (Hudson's Bay Company) on the Upper Assiniboine River be

considered as prospective headquarters of the Force.

The original three troops left the Stone Fort on June 7 for Fort Dufferin, near the International border, leaving several behind, however. A constable and five sub-constables remained at the Stone Fort for an indefinite period.

THE STONE FORT

In 1875, a scurvy epidemic following the grasshopper plague was handled entirely from this western centre.

In 1884 the Provincial Government passed an Act to establish the Manitoba Lunatic Asylum, to be built at Selkirk; temporary quarters were to be located at Lower Fort Garry.

The small frame building near the north gate was built at that time and used as a dispensary for Dr. David Young, who was the appointed superintendent of this new institution.

Prior to this period, Dr. Young



Doctor Young's Dispensary
By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

had served as prison doctor at the Fort at the first penitentiary, later as acting captain and medical officer for the North West Mounted Police. He also served as first superintendent at the Mental Hospital.

The northwest bastion was the Company's bake-house where bannock was made as this was a staple food for travel in those days. It was also the kitchen for the Mental Hospital while located there.

The northeast bastion has always been the powder magazine. The southeast bastion, the ice-house with old English lock and nails, was used as far back as 1836, as the door shows that date. The southwest bastion was used as a wash-house and cook-house for the first soldiers in 1846, and later as a store-house.

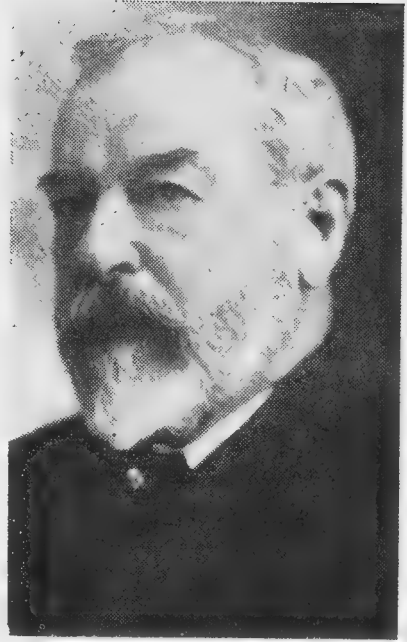
Few, if any, of the prisoners ever escaped, as the penitentiary was well guarded and a wooden stockade sunk 4 feet in the ground and precluded almost to a certainty any chance of escape. The prisoners worked at gardening, haying, wood-cutting and stone-work, conveying stone by hand-barrows from the river bank to be broken by hammer inside the Fort.

Near the entrance to the prison, past the stairway on the left, was a sunken dark cell for refractory prisoners, since filled in. Individual cells, upstairs and down, were on the left, and prisoners' dining-room on the right, upstairs, and general room downstairs.

The penitentiary was built at Stony Mountain in 1877, when S. L. Bedson (later Col.) was again in charge as warden.

Capital punishment was never meted out at the Stone Fort, at any time.

The store, or saleshop, near the



Dr. David Young

Courtesy of Lt.-Col. R. Hunter Young

south wall, was the Company's second retail store and fur loft with fur storage and fur-press and remained unused after 1874, although the main floor served as a general store until the Fort was closed in 1911.

At the store, nearly all articles sold came from England via the Hudson's Bay. A few such things as flour was ground here. There were two main brands of flour, 4X, and Strong Baker's. The former had the whole wheat grains and was quite dark in appearance. In the Strong Baker's the bran was removed and the grain ground finer.

Bannock was the common article made from the flour.

There was no paper or containers for articles purchased. If sugar were bought, for instance, you could buy a piece of print to tie it up in.

Still to be seen in this three-storey building are an old Red Riv-

er cart, a disc-shaped knife-cleaner, called a "crooked knife", cases (glass-boxes) for keeping live mink or beaver, the old fur-press, and a large form made spool-fashion to hold wool in various colors ready to slip into the loom, and a kayak.

The principal coat worn was known as a Capote. Made of blanket-cloth, it had a hood and no buttons; it was wrapped and kept taut with a French tasseled-sash, looped around the waist and draped down the leg.

In front of the store in the horse-and-buggy days was a railing approximately four feet high on posts placed both east and west of the store where the saddie-horses, teams and even oxen tied up.

Other structures built for the soldiers of the Wolseley expedition and since demolished were a Guard room and sergeant's mess and a meat warehouse.

Another large building located

along the east wall of the store was sometimes referred to as the "Floating Barracks." In 1881 a portion of the south wall was taken down and the building put on sleighs and hauled down the river to Colville Landing at the mouth of Cook's Creek.

Before it was taken to Colville Landng, the Hudson's Bay Company moved it there to be used as a warehouse, owing to the fact that the C.P.R. was to cross the river near this point and at that time Selkirk was commonly called the Crossing.

Two 3-inch cannons mounted by the east entrance of the residence are said to be part of Major Crofton's equipment brought out in 1846, the south one thought to have been spiked during the Riel Rebellion of 1869 - 1870.

The bell, originally hung on a wooden frame thirteen feet from the south wall, was moved to the



The Stone building opposite the Governor's house was the retail store and the loft was used as a fur store and press. It was used continuously until 1911.

This was to have been used as a Hudson Bay warehouse; the reason it was never made use of was the fact that the C.P.R. line was diverted to proceed on the east side of the River instead of crossing at Selkirk as intended.

By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company



The Bell, dated 1850, in an earlier location

By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company

roof of the liquor store in 1890, then to an old tree, as in the illustration, before being placed in present location.

The sun-dial is said to have been made by Engineer Abell, who came up as engineer on one of the first boats from the south, the S.S. International. The Abell cottage still stands south of the Fort on the bank of the creek.

The L-shaped building next to the west gate was originally the men's house, then became the soldier's canteen in 1870. Later it was the women's asylum and lastly, a stable; some of the original compartments and stalls are still intact.

It was not until some years later (after 1832) that the Fort was

completely finished and made almost self-containing by the erection of buildings south of the south wall, presently the golf course.

The buildings to the south along the creek included the men's house (logs) and canteen, the blacksmith's shop, the farm manager's house, the grain flailing building, the root house, beer cellar, engineer's cottage, store, malt-kiln, grist mill, brewer's dwelling and distillery, sawmill and miller's house, fourteen in all. Of these only the engineer's cottage remains.

In Samuel Taylor's diary he reports the Schooner Robin launched Tuesday, June 1852, about 1:15 o'clock.

Another reference to this part of their activities is dated January

1856 — "Working at the flooring of the carpenter's shop and caulking the inside with oakum, to make it as warm as possible, before boat-building begins."

A year later, January 8, 1857 — Philip Turner finished drafting a new schooner, 32 below zero."

There was a graveyard that had served as a burial ground for members of the Wolseley expedition and various groups that had occupied the Stone Fort.

Thus, the Stone Fort once called "a white elephant" has had an exciting story with its romance and tragedy, threats of war and massacre, blight and pestilence, refuge and celebration, in varying degrees of importance. The only stone fort still intact as well as the

only fur-trading post still in its original state, it is actually the pivotal point of historical events in Western Canada.

In all, twenty-four officers were in charge during the seventy-nine years it served as a trading-post and store, from 1832-33 to 1911.

The Motor Club deserves great credit for maintaining the buildings at the Fort as they did since 1913 when they leased it from the Hudson's Bay Company.

The grounds have always been a scene of beauty admired by thousands of tourists.

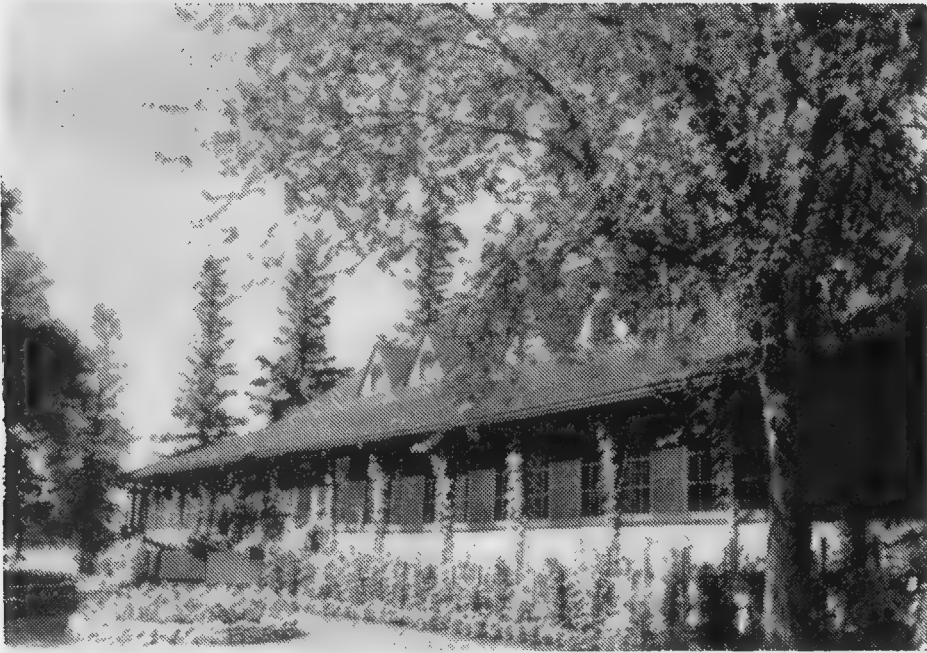
The main road passing the Fort, decorated by a row of Amur maples has been admired by all



Lower Fort Garry at the time of the 250th Anniversary celebration in 1920. Tents are pitched along the river bank for the Indians who came from northern parts in full dress.

On the left may be seen the stone cottage, all that now remains of the village south of the Stone Fort where a flour-mill, blacksmith shop, distillery and other buildings one stood. To the right is one of the stables.

By permission of the Hudson's Bay Company



The former residence as it was while headquarters of the Motor Country Club where meetings and social functions were held.

Courtesy of Manitoba Historical Society — G. F. Morrison

passersby, especially in the fall of the year.

Outstanding among Canadian museums is the recently erected replica of a former retail store, once used as a North West Mounted Police barracks at Lower Fort Garry.

In it visitors can find a detailed record of the Company's explorations, its expansion in the early years plus drawings and artifacts showing different phases of the life of people at the Fort.

Also on display is a collection of pictures of Company officers and explorers. These include Prin-

ce Rupert, Lord Selkirk and Nicholas Garry, after whom the Fort was named.

The second floor arrangement covers the history of the Western Canadian Indian. Leggings, saddles, jackets, gauntlets, moccasins and beautiful bead-work bring the period dramatically alive.

The displays are skillfully arranged against a background of near-life-size photographs of Indians.

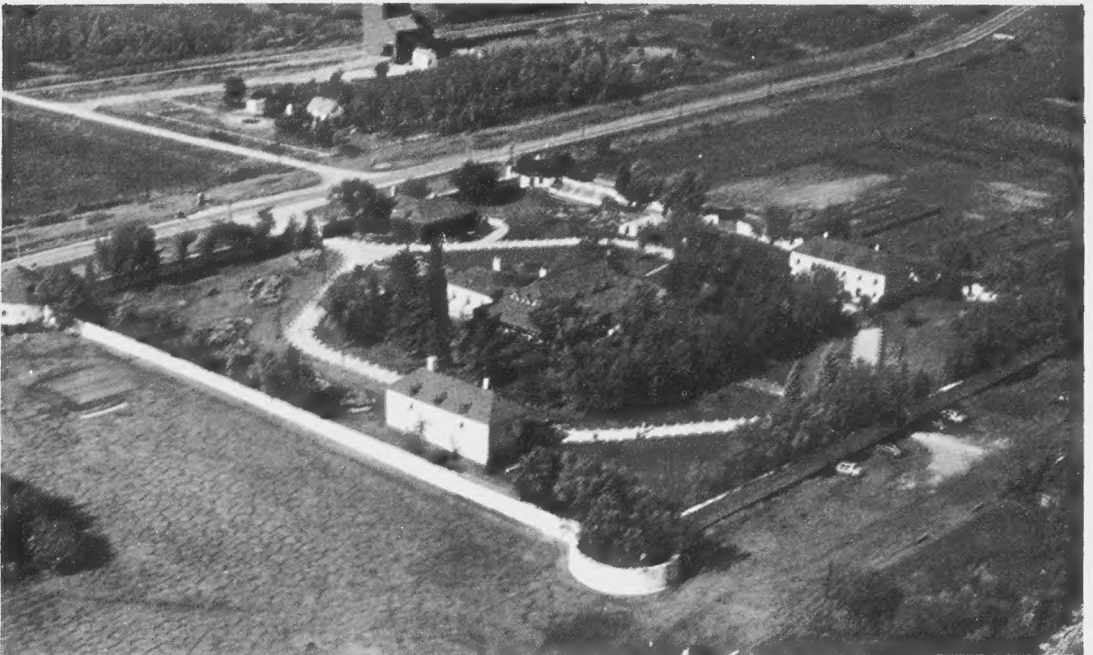
The Lower Fort is said to be the only one of its kind on the North American continent.

**CANADA
NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
Lower Fort Garry
(Fort de Pierre)**

Built by the Hudson's Bay Company, 1831-33, on instruction of Governor George Simpson; later enclosed by walls strengthened with loop-holes and bastions; garrisoned in 1846; at times the place of residence of the Governor of Rupert's Land and the seat of the Government.

Maintenance of Buildings by
National Parks Board

"The good, solid, comfortable establishment" built as part of Governor Simpson's scheme to secure an export trade for the colony has become a treasure trove of history and a high point of beauty, past and present.



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Reference has been made to the following for required material:

Lower Fort Garry - By Robert Watson

A History of the Canadian West - 1870-71
by Arthur Morton

The North West Mounted Police - by John Peter Turner

Lower Fort Garry - by Margaret Arnett MacLeod

Notes of the Flood at Red River in 1852 -
by David Anderson, D.D.

The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba,
The North West Territories and Kee-wa-tin -
by Hon. Alexander Morris, P.C.

The Company of Adventurers - Isaac Cowie

Leaders of the Canadian Church -
Edited by Wm. Bertil Heeney, B.A.

The Diary of Samuel Taylor - Public Archives of Man.



The west gate in earlier years was called the back gate when travellers and trade goods came in the east gate from the river.

Courtesy Manitoba Historical Society



Life On The Prairie – "The Buffalo Hunt"

Courtesy of Manitoba Government Travel and Publicity Bureau